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Both national and California human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) case reporting data show that African Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2002, AIDS was the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25-34 and the second leading cause of death for African American men ages 35-44. In 2002, AIDS was one of the top three causes of death for African American men ages 25-54 and African American women ages 25-44.<sup>1</sup>

- Through December 31, 2004, there were an estimated 944,306 cases of AIDS in the United States; African Americans accounted for 40 percent of all AIDS cases.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2004, the rate of AIDS cases in the United States among African Americans was 56.4 per 100,000 population, more than three times greater than the rate for Hispanics (18.6 per 100,000) and more than nine times greater than the rate for Whites (6.0 per 100,000).<sup>3</sup>
- At the end of 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that over 60 percent of women living with AIDS, and 43 percent of all people living with AIDS in the United States were African Americans, the highest for any racial/ethnic group.<sup>4</sup>
- African Americans accounted for 50 percent of all AIDS cases diagnosed in 2004 in the United States, yet African Americans make up only 12 percent of the population.<sup>5</sup>
- In California, as of November 30, 2005, there were 138,997 cumulative reported AIDS cases; 24,496 of these cases were African Americans. This represents over 18 percent of all AIDS cases, yet African Americans constitute only seven percent of California's population.<sup>6</sup>
- African Americans represent nearly 19 percent (10,996) of all people living with AIDS in California as of November 30, 2005. Eighty percent (8,756) of those are African American men, while 20 percent (2,240) are African American women.<sup>7</sup>



- From July 1, 2002, through November 30, 2005, there were 39,687 reported cases of HIV infection in California, and African Americans accounted for 20 percent (7,775) of all reported cases.<sup>8</sup>
- African Americans are more likely to face challenges associated with risk for HIV infection including socioeconomic problems related to poverty, increased rates of sexually transmitted diseases, issues related to substance use, and especially for women, being unaware their male partners could be at risk.<sup>9</sup>
- California Assembly Bill 1142 (Chapter 403, Dymally, Statutes of 2005) created a Statewide African American HIV/AIDS Initiative to coordinate prevention and health care services and increase the capacity of service providers in addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in African Americans. The California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (CDHS/OA) is directing \$400,000 in specially designated prevention funds to support the continuing work of the initiative beginning July 1, 2006.

To learn about California's HIV/AIDS programs and data, visit the CDHS/OA Web site at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>. For information on HIV/AIDS services, visit the AIDS Hotline at <http://AIDShotline.org> or call 1-800-367-AIDS.

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Health Statistics. *National Vital Statistics Report: Deaths: Leading Causes for 2002*, Vol. 53, No. 17.

<sup>2</sup> HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report-Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States, 2004, Vol. 16, p.12.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, p. 21, 8.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, Monthly Summary of California AIDS Cases, November 2005.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, Monthly Summary of California HIV Cases, November 2005.

<sup>9</sup> CDC: HIV/AIDS among African Americans, February 2005.